

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Closing the loop

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

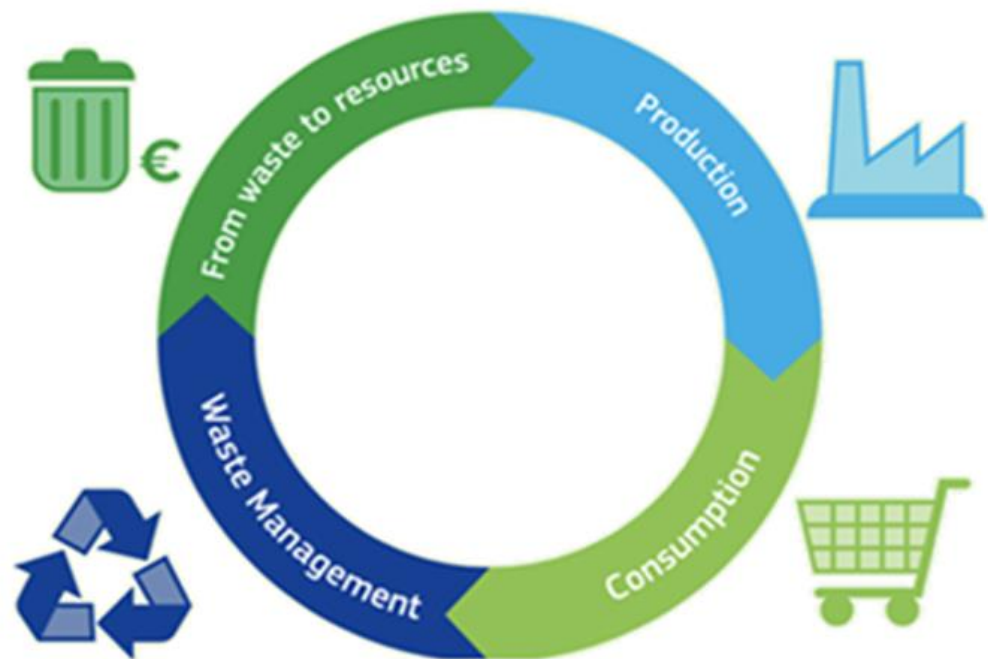
A European Strategy for Plastics in the circular economy

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21 March 2019*

Circular Economy Action Plan

State of play

- Presented in Dec. 2015
- All 54 actions delivered
- Implementation report (4 March 2019)



Global recognition



Circular plastics?



49 million tonnes



31,1% collected for recycling (2016)

+79% in 10 years

A EUROPEAN STRATEGY FOR PLASTICS IN THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY



**Improve
the economics
and quality
of plastics
recycling**



**Curb plastic
waste and
littering**



**Drive
investments
and innovation
towards circular
solutions**



**Harness
global
action**



All plastics packaging reusable or recyclable by 2030

- **Design for circularity** → e.g. ecodesign, GPP, ecolabel
- **Separate waste collection**
- **Recycled content** → **pledging campaign**
- **Essential requirements** in PPWD
- **Food-contact materials**
- **Quality standards** (sorted & recycled plastics)



- **Microplastics pollution:**
 - Intentionally added to products → ECHA scientific dossier: health & environmental risks justify an EU-wide restriction → scientific committees
 - Unintentional release, e.g. tyres, textiles, pellets, coating
- **Directive on port reception facilities**
- **Regulatory framework for biodegradable plastics**
- **Single use plastics**



- **Strategic Research Innovation Agenda for Plastics** (2019)
- **H2020 additional €100 million investments** (up until 2020)
- **Support the development of alternative feedstocks**
→ **lifecycle assessments** including **biomass**
- **Chemical recycling**



- **Support for multilateral initiatives on plastics**
- **Development in cooperation funding**

Specific issues

- 1. Biobased & biodegradable plastics*
- 2. Marine litter*
- 3. Pledging campaign*

(1)

Biobased plastics => source



Biodegradable plastics => end-of-life



Biodegradable plastics: some issues

- Industrial composting ⇔ homecomposting ⇔ biodegradation
- Which standard for the marine environment (~ temp, oxygen)?
- **Reuse > recycle > biodegradation**
Keeping the value of (plastic) materials in the circular economy
- Correct info & disposal is challenging for consumers
 - **Risk of being littered**
 - **Cross-contamination of waste streams**

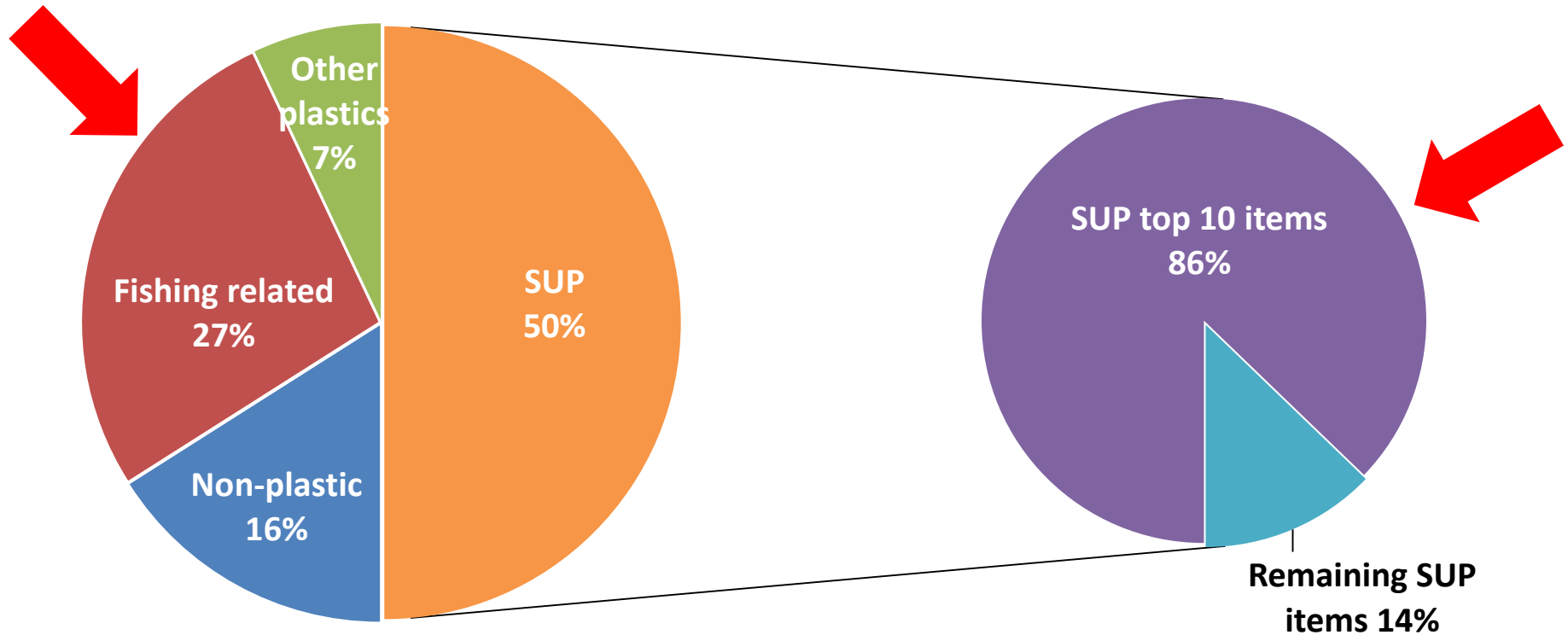
⇒ **identifying applications with clear environmental benefit**

(2)

Tackling marine litter



Most found marine litter items on European beaches



70% covered of all marine litter: top 10 SUP (43%) + fishing gear (27%)

Sources: Marine Strategy Framework Directive - European Regional Seas Conventions - JRC

10 most found items



Ranking	Item
1	Drinks bottles, caps and lids
2	Cigarette butts
3	Cotton buds sticks
4	Crisp packets / sweet wrappers
5	Sanitary applications
6	Plastic bags
7	Cutlery, straws and stirrers
8	Drinks cups and cup lids
9	Balloons and balloon sticks
10	Food containers including fast food packaging

Proposal for a Directive on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment

Mid-2019: Entry into force

items with available
sustainable alternatives



promote less harmful
alternatives:
market bans

items with no clear alternatives



prevention measures:
design requirements,
consumption reduction,
consumer information

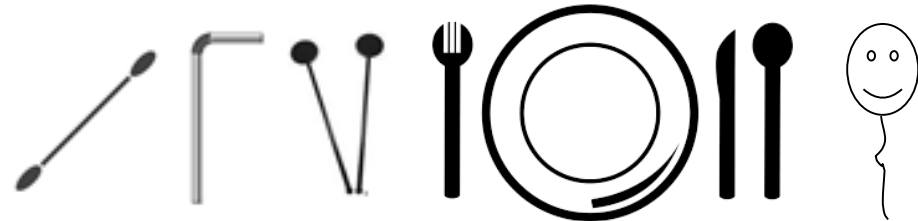


better waste management:
separate collection,
extended producer
responsibility + clean-up

- Food containers
- Cups for beverages (incl. covers and lids)

Restrictions on plastic content,
not the product

- **All products made of *oxo-degradable* plastic**
- **Cups, food and beverage containers made of *EPS***
- And:





Tethered caps and lids:

To remain attached to beverage containers & bottles (≤ 3 l)



Recycled plastic content:

for single use **beverage bottles**, as an average per MS

- **25%** by 2025 for PET bottles,
- **30%** by 2030 for all plastic bottles

Extended producer responsibility



Food & beverage containers, cups, packets & wrappers, light weight carrier bags, tobacco products with filters

Producers to help cover the costs of:



- waste prevention (awareness raising)
- waste management
- litter clean-up
- data gathering



! Wet wipes & balloons: waste prevention & litter clean-up costs

Separate collection



Separate collection target for
plastic beverage bottles

~ deposit



→ **77% by 2025**

→ **90% by 2029**



(3)



Pledging Campaign

Aim Plastics Strategy: **10 million tons of recycled plastics** finding their way into new products on the EU market by 2025

Assessment report of the voluntary pledges

70 pledges:

Supply side: 11 million tons of recycled plastics

↔ **Demand side: 6.4 million tons expected**

⇒ **more actions will be needed**

Circular Plastics Alliance

→ To strengthen the **match** between supply & demand for recycled plastics, by:

- Collection & sorting
- Design
- Recycled content in products
- R&D – investment
- Monitoring

Delivery by September 2019



Learn more about this Directive, the plastics strategy and the circular economy:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/index_en.htm